

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

The examiner's interpretation of "bow-shaped" and "C-shaped" in accordance with Standard English is accurate. More particularly "bow-shaped" means "shaped like a bow," and a "bow" is most commonly understood as being in comparison to the standard archery bow that is an arcuate element lying in a plane. Similarly "C-shaped" means "shaped like a letter C," without reference to a particular font so that the shape is that of a circle or oval with a portion less than half missing, also lying in a plane. It is respectfully submitted that Standard English is permitted in patent claims, and that Standard English words are to be understood in their normal meaning unless otherwise indicated.

Claim 1 has been amended to more accurately define the invention as clearly shown in the drawing. Thus the bow 6 is described as being of one piece with its front and rear ends both

lying on the axis defined by the needle 3, with the handle 7 rearward of the rear end and also on the axis.

The purpose of this construction is to make the very delicate job of drawing blood from a neonate possible without waste of blood, and even for a hematologist not used to the tiny veins of such a newborn. The simple shape of the tool allows the entire needle to be seen, and if necessary rotated out of the way by use of the handle, while the exposed rear end 5 can easily be positioned over a collecting vessel or slide.

The main reference, US 2,437,408 of Soet is a much more complex device intended for drawing large quantities of bloods, even for filling more than one carpoule of vial 12. To this end the basic device has an L-shaped part 10 on which a U-shaped slide 16 is mounted having clips 32 for holding the vial 12. The only structure comparable to the "rear end" of this invention is the rear tab 34 of the slide 16, but this is not part of the L-shaped body 16 forming the front end and the spring-loaded needle mount 20. Furthermore there is no rear-end handle rearward of the nonexistent rear end of the body 16, so that in this regard another clearly claimed part of the structure is missing.

Thus it is clear that amended claim 1 clearly defines under §102 over Soet.

Going further, nothing in Suet suggests eliminating the separate vial holder/slide and making the holder 16 of C-shape

rather than L-shape, and in fact there would be no need to do so. Thus a §103 rejection on Suet is similarly impossible.

New claim 5 relates to the rotation-symmetrical handle 7 that is clearly shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. This makes it particularly easy to rotate the entire assembly about the needle axis, even when stuck in a vein. Nothing like this is shown or suggested by the cited art.

Thus all the claims are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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